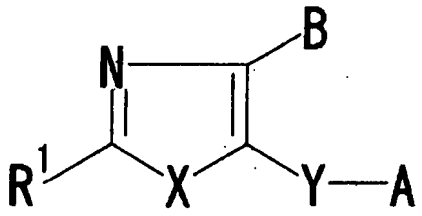
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~preventing or~~ treating ~~chronic pain, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, diabetic cardiomyopathy, peripheral nerve injury, spinal injury, multiple sclerosis, cerebral ischemic diseases,~~ senile dementia of Alzheimer's disease ~~type, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's chorea, depression, inflammatory bowel disease, behavioural abnormalities accompanied by dementia, or anxiety~~ in a mammal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of an azole derivative of the formula:



wherein R^1 represents ~~a halogen atom, a heterocyclic group which may optionally be substituted a hydroxy group which may optionally be substituted, a thiol group which may optionally be substituted, or an amino group which may optionally be substituted~~ an imidazolyl group which may optionally be substituted; A represents ~~an acyl group which may optionally be substituted, a heterocyclic group which may optionally be substituted, a hydroxy group which may optionally be substituted, or a carboxyl group which may optionally be esterified or amidated~~ a phenoxy group substituted with an alkyl group which may optionally be substituted or a C_{1-4} alkoxy; B represents ~~an aromatic group which may optionally be substituted~~ a phenyl group which may optionally be substituted; X represents oxygen atom~~, sulfur atom, or nitrogen atom which may optionally be substituted~~; and Y represents a divalent hydrocarbon group or heterocyclic group, or a salt thereof.

2-8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein A is a phenoxy group substituted with an alkyl group which may optionally be substituted.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein Y is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group.

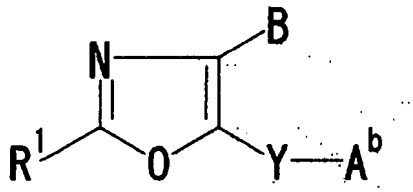
12-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the azole derivative is

~~4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-oxazolepropanol~~,
~~4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-oxazolebutanol~~,
~~4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(1-imidazolyl)propyl]-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)oxazole~~,
~~4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-oxazolepentanol~~,
~~4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[4-(1-imidazolyl)(butyl[-2-(2-methyl-1-1-imidazolyl)oxazole~~,
~~3-[-3-[4-[4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-1-imidazolyl)-5-oxazolyl]propyl]-1-methyl-2,4 imidazolidinedione~~,
4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(2-methoxyphenoxy)propyl]-2-(2-methyl-l-imidazolyl)oxazole,
4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(3-methoxyphenoxy)propyl]-2-(2-methyl-l-imidazolyl)oxazole,
4-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[3-(4-methoxyphenoxy)propyl]-2-(2-methyl-l-imidazolyl)oxazole, or
4-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-l-imidazolyl)-5-[3-(2-methylphenoxy)propyl]oxazole.

16-28. (Canceled)

29. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the azole derivative is of the formula:



wherein R^1 represents ~~a halogen atom, a heterocyclic group which may optionally be substituted, a hydroxy group which may optionally be substituted, a thiol group which may optionally be substituted, or an amino group which may optionally be substituted an~~ imidazolyl group which may optionally be substituted; A^b represents an ~~aryl~~phenoxy group which is substituted by an alkyl group ~~and may further be substituted~~; B represents ~~an aromatic group which may optionally be substituted~~ a phenyl group which may optionally be substituted; and Y represents a divalent hydrocarbon group or heterocyclic group, or a salt thereof.

30-33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) A method according to Claim ~~33~~29, wherein R^1 is an imidazolyl group which may optionally be substituted by a C_{1-10} alkyl.

35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) A method according to Claim ~~35~~29, wherein B is a phenyl group which may optionally be substituted by halogens.

37. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 29, wherein Y is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group.

38. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 37, wherein Y is a divalent C_{1-4} aliphatic hydrocarbon group.

39-42. (Canceled)

43. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the azole derivative is 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-l-imidazolyl)-5-[3-(2-methylphenoxy)propyl]oxazole or a salt thereof.

44. (Canceled)

45. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the azole derivative is 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-(2-methyl-l-imidazolyl)-5-[3-(3-methylphenoxy)propyl]oxazole or a salt thereof.

46-58. (Canceled)